

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1578

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TUNIS FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

DEPT FOR NEA

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECSTATE IMMEDIATE VICE ROUTINE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (HABIB, PHILIP C.)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED Q AND A'S FOR UNDER SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED Q AND A'S FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY'S
APRIL 16 PRESS CONFERENCE.

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT TO MOROCCO?

A: THE U.S. HAS ENJOYED LONG-STANDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH
MOROCCO - INDEED, AS I NOTED UPON MY ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT
IN RABAT-SALE, 1977 MARKS A UNIQUE BICENTENNIAL IN THE HISTORY
OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES - AND I VALUE THIS VISIT AS A CHANCE TO
SEEK THE VIEWS OF MOROCCAN LEADERS ON A NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL
AND BILATERAL QUESTIONS.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON THE EVENTS IN ZAIRE AND
SPECIFICALLY THE DISPATCH OF MOROCCAN TROOPS TO HELP THE
ZAIRIANS REPEL THE INVADERS OF SHABA PROVINCE?

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A: THE U.S. POSITION IS THAT THIS IS ENTIRELY A MATTER BETWEEN
MOROCCO AND ZAIRE.

Q: BUT HOW DO YOU, AS A RANKING MEMBER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT,
FEEL ABOUT SUCH SUPPORT?

A: MY GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT UNDERSCORES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. IT DEMONSTRATES, TOO, IN MY VIEW, THE NECESSITY OF FINDING A SOLUTION, WHICH WE FEEL IS ALWAYS BETTER REACHED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS RATHER THAN ON THE BATTLEGROUND. THAT IS WHY WE WOULD ACCENT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NIGERIAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE. OUR OVERALL VIEW REMAINS THAT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA ARE FOR THE AFRICANS TO DECIDE.

Q: DOESN'T THE FACT THAT THE MOROCCAN TROOPS ARE USING U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT INDICATE OFFICIAL U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE MOROCCAN ACTION IN ZAIRE?

A: AS THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ON APRIL 11, NO SUCH EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED BY MOROCCAN TROOPS IN ZAIRE. AS PERHAPS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS BOTH BY LAW AND BILATERAL U.S.-MOROCCAN AGREEMENT AGAINST THE USE OF U.S.-SUPPLIED WEAPONS OUTSIDE MOROCCO'S BORDERS WITHOUT U.S. PERMISSION. MOROCCO HAS NOT REQUESTED SUCH PERMISSION.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE FRENCH SUPPORT TO ZAIRE: HAS THE U.S. BEEN COORDINATING WITH FRANCE ON ITS SUPPLY OF AIRLIFT CAPABILITY TO THE MOROCCAN TROOPS?

A: THE U.S. DID NOT COORDINATE WITH FRANCE ON THE QUESTION OF THE LATTER PROVIDING LOGISTICAL AIR SUPPORT TO ZAIRE. WE HAVE HAD, OF COURSE, CONSULTATIONS IN WHICH WE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON A CONTINUING BASIS WITH ALL OUR ALLIES WITH INTEREST IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA, AND THAT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS INCLUDES THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION. BUT THERE WAS NO "COORDINATION" OR PRIOR PLANNING INVOLVING SOME MASTER PLAN ON ZAIRE WITH THE FRENCH OR WITH ANYONE ELSE.

Q: AMERICAN UN AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG RECENTLY REMARKED THAT THE U.S. NEED NOT FEAR COMMUNISM IN AFRICA. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE A REDUCTION IN AID TO YOUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDS?

A: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, WHILE STATING THAT WE NEED NOT FEAR TO COMPETE WITH COMMUNIST EFFORTS IN AFRICA, IN NO WAY IMPLIED THAT WE WILL ABANDON OUR PROGRAMS TO ASSIST THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH REQUEST OUR AID IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE THE SUREST GUARANTEES AGAINST OPPRESSION AND TOTALITARIAN IDEOLOGIES.

Q: GIVEN HIS DEDICATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WHY DOESN'T PRESIDENT CARTER SPEAK OUT ON THE PLIGHT OF SAHRAOUI REFUGEES BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL IN ALGERIAN CAMPS?

A: WE DO NOT HAVE FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER AND SITUATION OF THE SAHRAOUI REFUGEES. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UN WHO HAVE VISITED THEM INDICATE THAT THERE ARE SOME LEGITIMATE REFUGEES THERE. THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY HUMANITARIAN AID TO REFUGEES THROUGH VARIOUS UN AGENCIES, WHILE ENCOURAGING EFFORTS BY THE UNHCR TO AMELIORATE THE PROBLEM WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, IS COMPLICATED BY POLITICAL DIFFERENCES IN THE REGION.

Q: WHY DOES THE U.S. CONTINUE TO BLOCK PROGRESS IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE?

A: ON THE CONTRARY, THE U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS INDICATED IN HIS FOREIGN AID PROPOSALS, IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE UN,

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AND IN HIS DECLARATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS THE DEEP INTEREST WHICH HE HAS IN THE PEOPLE AND COUNTRIES OF THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD. WE WELCOME A DIALOGUE WITH THESE NATIONS.

Q: IN RECENT REMARKS, PRESIDENT CARTER STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE STYLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, GIVING AS AN EXAMPLE THE POSSIBILITY OF HOME-STAY VISITS OF IDAHOANS IN MOROCCO AND MOROCCANS IN IDAHO. WHEN CAN WE EXPECT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM, AND HOW DO I GET ON THE LIST?

A: THE PRESIDENT DID INDEED EXPRESS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR GREATER EXCHANGES OF PEOPLE ACROSS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, AND HE REMAINS COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING THROUGH A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF THE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TYPE PROGRAM, HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE A SPONTANEOUS ONE AND FUNDED FROM PRIVATE SOURCES.

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 2001

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECSTATE IMMEDIATE VICE ROUTINE)

Q: HOW DOES YOUR GOVERNMENT RECONCILE THE EXTENSIVE AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN ALGERIA WITH ITS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS, GIVEN THE EXISTENCE OF A DICTATORIAL AND NON-REPRESENTATIVE REGIME IN ALGIERS?

A: THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ALGERIAN REGIME IS YOUR, NOT MINE. SPEAKING GENERALLY, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IT IS ONE THING TO SPEAK OUT ON A MORAL ISSUE SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ANOTHER TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER NATION. THIS NEED NOT PREJUDICE ONE COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER, NOR DOES IT EXCLUDE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

Q: IS THE US ATTEMPTING ANY MEDIATION BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO?

A: THE US HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL THREE MAGHREB COUNTRIES I HAVE VISITED, AND THIS VISIT HAS GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE POINTS OF VIEW WITH THE LEADERS OF EACH OF THOSE COUNTRIES. THE US IS NOT, HOWEVER, ATTEMPTING TO MEDIATE THE UNFORTUNATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBORS, AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED TO DO SO.

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Q: WHAT IS THE US POSITION ON THE SAHARA QUESTION?

A: AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON THE SAHARA QUESTION AND CONTINUE TO DO SO. WE HAVE URGED RESTRAINT ON THE CONTENDING PARTIES, CONFIDENT THAT EVENTUALLY THE COMMON GOAL OF PEACE WHICH THEY ALL SHARE WILL ENABLE THEM TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES PEACEABLY.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION?

A: AS I STATED, THE US SUPPORTS UN RESOLUTIONS ON THE MATTER, MOST NOTABLY LAST YEAR'S UNGA RESOLUTION WHICH SOUGHT TO

PLACE THE MATTER BEFORE A REGIONAL BODY, A SOLUTION THE US IN GENERAL HAS SUPPORTED TO RESOLVE DISPUTES. NOW AS YOU KNOW, SUBSEQUENT EVENTS HAVE COMPLICATED SOMEWHAT THE OAU'S TASK IN CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE AND WE WILL HAVE TO AWAIT HOW THE AFRICAN NATIONS DEAL WITH THESE COMPLICATIONS.

Q: BUT BOTH OF THE RELEVANT 1975 UNGA RESOLUTIONS -- INCLUDING THAT SUBSCRIBED TO BY THE US -- CALL FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE SAHARAN PEOPLE. HOW AND WHEN MIGHT THE CONSULTATION OCCUR?

A: WE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO SEE THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION DEAL WITH THIS QUESTION.

Q: PRESIDENT CARTER HAS RECENTLY SAID THAT THE US INTENDS TO SUSPEND WORK ON PLUTONIUM FAST-BREEDER REACTORS AND WILL ENCOURAGE OTHRS TO DO THE SAME. HOW DOES THIS US POLICY CHANGE AFFECT MOROCCO'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH US COMPANIES DIRECTED TOWARDS THE EXTRACTION OF URANIUM FROM PHOSPHORIC ACID AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT RELATED MOROCCAN DECISIONS ENVISAGING EARLY REALIZATION OF NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITIES?

A: AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF AMPLE URANIUM OF ITS OWN, PLUS A SUPPLY FOR EXPORT, MOROCCO IN MY VIEW HAS NO NEED TO DEPEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON PLUTONIUM AS A SOURCE OF NUCLEAR POWER. AS YOU KNOW, KING HASSAN HAS DECLARED MOROCCO'S WILLINGNESS TO SUBMIT ITS ATOMIC PROGRAM TO INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION AND THAT MOROCCO'S PROGRAM IS INTENDED PURELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. WE WELCOME THESE STATEMENTS.
ANDERSON

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